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Action

EUR

Info

FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary

NO: 207, AUGUST

NIACT

ACTION DEPARTMENT 207, BONN PRIORITY 180, INFORMATION PARIS PRIORITY 125, LONDON PRIORITY 119, MOSCOW PRIORITY 114.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESSEL AND MCGUIRE.

REF PARA 3 DEPT 119 BERLIN, 350 BONN; BERLIN'S 192 DEPT, 165 BONN.

FOLLOWING TEMPORARY SUSPENSION RECOMMENDED OUR REFTEL WE FAVOR EARLY REINTRODUCTION SAME OR SIMILAR MEASURES WHICH WERE ACCEPTED BY NATO POWERS FOLLOWING ISSUANCE BY SOVZONE REGIME OF SEPT 8 DECREE. THESE MEASURES DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN VARIOUS CATEGORIES SOVZONE RESIDENTS DEPENDING UPON PRIVATE OR OFFICIAL STATUS OF POTENTIAL TRAVELER. RE POSSIBILITY GDR RETALIATION FOR RESTRICTIVE ATO POLICY, DEPT WILL RECALL THAT THERE WAS NO GDR RETALIATION LAST YEAR. AT PRESENT, ONLY ALLIED ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN CONTINUES UNIMPEDED, AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE TTD BAN WOULD PROVOKE SOVS INTO BLOCKING THAT.

ATO CANNOT BE CLOSED DOWN NOW ON GROUNDS "GDR PREVENTING EAST GERMANS FROM ENTERING WEST BERLIN." SOVZONE REGULATIONS INSTITUTE CONTROLS OVER ENTRY INTO WEST BERLIN OF SOVZONE AND EAST BERLIN RESIDENTS, BUT DO NOT PROHIBIT OR PREVENT ENTRY. IF EAST GERMANS HAVE GDR EXIT-ENTRY VISAS IN THEIR GDR PASSPORTS, THEY ARE PERMITTED TO ENTER WEST BERLIN IN ORDER OBTAIN TTDS. GREEN 190 EAST GERMANS CAME TO ATO YESTERDAY AND TODAY; NEARLY ALL WERE IN PRIVATE TRAVEL CATEGORY (PREVIOUS NORMAL RATE FOR 2 DAYS WAS AROUND 150).

AGREE

SECRET

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-2- 207, AUGUST 15, 8 PM FROM BERLIN

AGREE WITH DEPT WITH GDR LIKELY TO MAINTAIN CONTROLS FOR LONG PERIOD, BUT BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE ABLE PERSUADE NATO NATIONS IN VIEW OF SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION TO CONTINUE RESTRICTIONS ON EAST GERMAN OFFICIAL TRAVEL FOR A LONG PERIOD UNTIL THERE IS REASON FOR RELAXING THEM.

FEDREP INTENTION TO COORDINATE THEIR PASSPORT CONTROLS WITH TTD CONTROLS IS OF COURSE HELPFUL, PARTICULARLY SINCE SEVERAL NATO NATIONS INCLUDING FRANCE HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT EAST GERMANS ENTERING THEIR COUNTRIES WITHOUT OBTAINING VISA BY PRESENTATION FEDREP PASSPORT. HOWEVER, SOVZONE REGIME HAS NOW DECIDED TO FORBID THEIR POPULATION TO OBTAIN FEDREP PASSPORTS, AND IT THUS APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT ACKNOWLEDGED GDR OFFICIALS WILL APPLY FOR FEDREP PASSPORTS.

BELIEVE DEPT SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT ACTION ON TTDS COUPLED WITH COMMANDANTS' PROTEST WOULD GREATLY REASSURE WEST BERLINERS AND IMPRESS SOVS IN PRESENT SITUATION. THOUGH TTD RESTRICTIONS INSTITUTED LAST SEPT PROVED USEFUL, MOST RECENT GDR ACTIONS CONSIDERED BY BERLINERS AS FAR MORE SERIOUS.



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